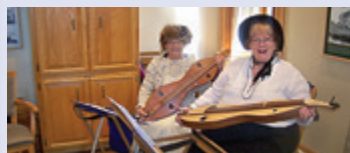




Visitors Center



Camps



Special Presentations



Nature Awareness Talks

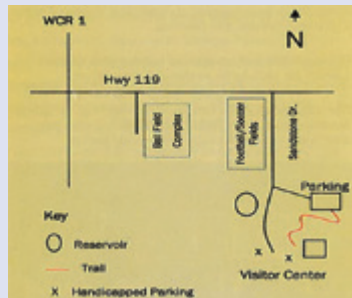
Sandstone Ranch Birthday Parties

Nature, explore, and more!

Ages 10 and under.

303-774-4757 to schedule.

Fee: \$121 for up to 10 children



How to Get to Sandstone Ranch Visitors Center

Sandstone Ranch Visitors Center is located just east of Longmont on Highway 119. The turn-off for the District Park and Visitors Center is one mile east of the Intersection of Highway 119 and Weld County Road 1. Drive south on Sandstone Drive (next to the football and soccer fields) and follow the directional signs to the Visitors Center/ Trailhead parking lot. Follow the walking trail down to the Visitors Center. Handicapped parking is available in front of the Visitors Center.

Sandstone Ranch Visitors Center

3001 E Hwy 119 • Longmont, CO 80504 • 303-774-4692

Sandstone Ranch Visitors Center is available for business rentals and class rentals.

Visitors Center Hours:

April to August: 2nd & 4th Saturdays, 10am-2pm

April to October: Tuesdays, 9am-12pm



Discover a treasure of nature & history, just outside your door.

The Visitor Center includes hands-on displays on environmental features of the area, as well as history of the Coffin family who homesteaded the site, and other early Longmont history. There is no admission fee to the Visitor Center. A nature trail from the Visitor Center takes you past several historical buildings, near the sandstone bluffs, and includes a scenic overlook.

Volunteer Ambassadors Wanted:

Join us in developing the Sandstone District Park into a destination people from all over want to visit by registering online at www.LongmontColorado.gov/recreation or by calling 303-651-8404.

Home School Nature Education Series

The Home School Nature Education Series is especially designed for elementary level home schooled students who have an interest in the natural world. Programs include indoor lesson followed by an interpretive hike/walk and outdoor activities as weather permits. These programs are for home school students grades 3-5 and cost \$10 per student per day (2 hour class) and are by appointment. Call 303-774-4757 for scheduling information.

Owls Up Close

For several years, different owl species have made Sandstone Ranch their winter home. Gather for an indoor presentation on general owl ecology. We may also see birds prey scouring the fields for rodents. While at the park, all participants must abide by strict "owl etiquette". Bring a pair of binoculars. No need to pre-register.

7 to Adult: Feb 28, Sat, 10am-12pm

Location: Sandstone Ranch Learning Center Building Entrance, 3001 E Hwy 119

Fee: \$4 per person, payable day-of

Winter Ranch Facts about the Animals

What do you do to get through the weather? Sleep more? Eat More? Stay inside more? Animals have special ways of coping with cold weather using similar methods.

- **Hibernation:** The "Big Sleep" that some animals use to survive winter by sleeping through it! Bears, Squirrels, chipmunks, and some bats hibernate. Don't disturb hibernators – it uses up too much of their energy that they need to survive.
 - **Bears:** Can gain up to 150 lbs. of fat in two months! Heart rate and metabolism slows and body temperature drops slightly. Can awaken quickly, but don't eat or go to bathroom.
 - **Squirrels and chipmunks:** Body temp goes WAY down—hard to awaken, but most get up several times to eat a little and go to the bathroom.
 - **Frogs and Turtles:** Bury themselves in mud or at bottom of ponds. Heart and breathing stops, but sugar in blood acts as antifreeze and protects vital organs.
 - **Marmots:** Eat tons of food, sun themselves on rocks, and then sleep for six months.
- **Migration:** The "Big Move". If it is colder, go somewhere warmer! Animals can migrate to lower elevations in the same state to find better food and warmer weather, or they can travel thousands of miles to different countries!
 - **Birds:** migrate short and long distances. Arctic Terns fly from the North Pole to the Atlantic!
 - **Monarch Butterflies:** travel 2,000-3,000 miles in the fall from Canada and the northern US to California and Mexico.
- **Adaptation:** "Switching it Up". Migration patterns have changed as the Front Range has been more heavily populated and food is closer to them.
 - **Elk:** migrate down from their summer mountain range to find grass to eat on golf courses that weren't there before people built them.
 - **Canadian Geese:** use the ponds and food found in towns to stay put over the winter months.

Find out more about the animals that live in and around the Sandstone Ranch Learning Center during their open hours April through October!

Birding at Sandstone Ranch

Did you know that over 112 different species of birds have been identified at Sandstone Ranch? Visit www.ebird.org for more information, including tracking.